

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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BUENOS AIRES FOR KEITER

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: EAIR, US, VE
SUBJ: CIVAIR - DISCUSSIONS ON USER CHARGES
AND FUEL QUESTIONS

1. MARCH 16 DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY WERE PRIMARILY
DEVOTED TO USER CHARGES. USDEL TRIED TO
FOCUS ON OVERFLIGHT CHARGES, BUT VENEZUELAN
ARGUED THAT NOT ONLY WERE THEY NOT RECOVERING
FULL COSTS OF OVERFLIGHT CHARGES, OTHER AVIATION
CHARGES, SUCH AS LANDING FEES, REPRESENTED AN
EVEN SMALLER PROPORTION OF COSTS. THEY ALSO
REFERRED REPREATEDLY TO US ADAP DEPARTURE TAX.
US SIDE ARGUED BY IMPLICATION THAT PASSENGER
CHARGES WERE NOT PERTINENT TO DISCUSSION OF
CHARGES ON AIRLINES AND THAT, WHILE VENEZUELAN
EXPRESSIONS OF CHARGING PHILOSOPHY SIMILAR TO THAT
OF US WERE WELCOME, WHAT WAS NEEDED WERE FIGURES
TO BACK UP GOV STATEMENTS.

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2. VENDEL ULTIMATELY AGREED TO PROVIDE STUDY,
OR SUMMARY THEREOF, ON WHICH PRESENT CHARGING
SYSTEM IS BASED. IN MOVE WHICH APPEARED IMPORTANT
TO VENEZUELAN AMOUR PROPRE, US SIDE AGREED
TO RPOVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT COSTS IN THE US.

3. THE VENEZUELAN CHAIRMAN(MARIANO TIRADO, CHIEF OF THE DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) STATED THAT PRESENT CHARGES WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL A SECOND STUDY, INTENDED TO RESULT IN BETTER COST FIGURES, HAD BEEN COMPLETED, HOPEFULLY IN 1978. (HE NOTED THAT GOV STRUCTURE RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL AVIATION IS CURRENTLY BEING COMPLETELY REORGANIZED). US SIDE RESPONDED THAT USG COULD NOT WAIT SO LONG TO MAKE UP ITS MIND ABOUT THE REASONABLENESS OF THE VENEZUELAN CHARGES; HOPEFULLY THE EARLIER STUDY WOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE US TO MAKE AN INTERIM DECISION.

4. WHILE UNWILLING TO ADMIT ANY DEFICIENCIES, VENEZUELAN REPS EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON COSTS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHARGING SYSTEMS, FROM BOTH USG AND AIRLINES. THEY REPEATEDLY POINTED TO REGULAR MEETINGS BETWEEN LOCAL INTERNATIONAL CARRIER REPS AND AIRPORT AUTHORITY AT MAQUETIA, SAYING THAT QUESTION OF NAVIGATION CHARGES HAD NOT BEEN RAISED THERE. THEY ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD IN FRAMEWORK OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED FAA TA AGREEMENT. USDEL REPLIED THAT IT WOULD INVESTIGAT POSSIBILITY.

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5. FUEL PRICES AND CHARGES WERE RAISED BRIEFLY. VENDEL POINTED OUT, AS CONFIRMED LATER BY PANAM REPS, THTT CHARGES, INCLUDING A TAX, ARE SMALL, AND IN FACT AIRLINES OFTEN TANK UP IN VENEZUELA.

6. FOLLOWING MORNING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION CHAIRED VENDEL AT MEETING AT MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. IT WAS AGREED THAT US SIDE WOULD PROVIDE VENEZUELANS, BY APRIL 15, WITH INFORMATION FOR US EXPERIENCE WHICH WOULD ASSIST THEM IN PREPARING THE KIND OF COST INFORMATION USG NEEDS. THIS THEY WOULD HAVE READY TWO MONTHS LATER. DCA NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION ON VENEZUELA WOULD BE USEFUL TO GOV AS WELL, AND MIGHT RESULT IN RECONSIDERATION OF PRESENT CHARGE SCHEDULE.

7. COMMENT: WHILE VENEZUELANS, AS EXPECTED, TENACIOUSLY DEFENDED VENEZUELAN POSITION AND INSISTED

ON VENEZUELAN "INDEPENDENCE", THEY APPEARED
OPEN TO NEW INFORMATION AND IN TURN PREPARED
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO USG.
REQUEST WASHINGTON PROVIDE INFORMATION PROMISED
PARA 6 ASAP AFTER USER CHARGE TEAM RETURNS,
AS WELL AS COMMENT ON SUGGESTION FOR ASSISTANCE
THRU FAA. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ON VARIOUS
VENEZUELAN PROMISES. (FULLER REPORT ON
MARCH 16 DISCUSSION WILL BE POUCHED.)

8. ON RELATED TOPIC, TIRADO ASKED WHAT HAD
HAPPENED TO VENEZUELAN SUGGESTION FOR DOUBLE
TAXATION TREATY. WHAT SHOULD WE TELL HIM?
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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